

**Conclusion**

Examination of the above claims, and issuance to the present applicant, is respectfully requested. Alternatively, the Examiner may want to declare an interference with patent 6,516,293 (and/or a continuation or divisional thereof if any) on the basis of the present claims as a count and/or on the basis of issued claims in that patent, so that the issued claims of the Smith patent can be properly examined in view of the prior invention of the present application. The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney for an interview to expedite the handling of this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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